



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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15 AUGUST 1966

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1. South Vietnam

The number of Communists defecting to the government is running 70 percent ahead of last year. Defectors are coming in at the rate of about 44 a day, and so far this year close to 12,000 have turned themselves in. There has been an increase in the number of defecting Viet Cong officers, too, and the information they pass on is proving quite helpful to tactical commanders.

2. North Vietnam

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3. Cambodia

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4. Indonesia

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5. Belgium

The prime minister says his government would be seriously weakened if it buckled under to the "offensive of the NATO generals" on the proposed new location for Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE). He told Ambassador Knight last Friday that he will continue to insist that the Chievres-Casteau site, some 30 miles from Brussels, is the best available relocation place in Belgium.

He views the objections to this site as arbitrary, unjustified, and based on matters of convenience and comfort. Unless this problem is resolved soon, there could be a considerable delay in relocating SHAPE from Paris.

6. Dominican Republic

The honeymoon is over. Balaguer now faces some hard problems--and the need for steady nerves. The signs point to a resurgence of extremist terrorism in the capital and to the danger that the moderate left may be gradually alienated from its role as a "loyal opposition."

Much depends on Balaguer's ability to restrain some of his more trigger-happy military and police officers. Also important will be how he intends to implement the "political austerity law" he is now pushing for. Ambassador Crimmins fears the proposed two-year truce in partisan political activity could stimulate the very kind of agitation it is designed to prevent.

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7. Congo

The situation has worsened considerably. Rebellious Katangan troops in Kisan-gani have now apparently been joined by a large new Katangan unit which moved in from the northeast. There may be as many as 2,000 Katangans there now. An 80-man white mercenary unit is the only significant force there apparently still loyal to Mobutu, and he has no other effective troops to commit.

There are no signs yet as to how the Katangans intend to exploit their strengthened bargaining position. They may head for home in Katanga--a move that could lead to a new Katanga secession. There are reports that this is all part of a move by Tshombé to regain power, but we are not yet ready to accept these reports.

8. Cuba

The evidence filtering in from Latin America since Castro's 26 July speech points to a new period of friction between the Cuban regime and the Moscow-oriented Latin American parties.

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Last week's Latin American Student Congress in Havana is likely to aggravate the problem. The congress specifically endorsed "armed struggle" as the best tactic and laid the groundwork for a permanent organization based in Havana. This will provide Castro with a new vehicle for promoting the kind of uncoordinated revolutionary action from which Moscow has tried to dissuade him.

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9. Eastern Europe

Next month's Warsaw Pact exercise in Czechoslovakia is being billed as the largest ever to be held. Elements of several Soviet divisions will apparently be moved into Czechoslovakia from the USSR. This is intended to be another demonstration of the Soviet Union's growing capability for rapid reinforcement of Eastern Europe.

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